

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Russian Federation

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### Russian Agricultural Policy and Situation Bi-Weekly Update - 1

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

**Approved By:**

Levin Flake

**Prepared By:**

FAS/Moscow Staff

**Report Highlights:**

Rosstat publishes preliminary 2013 crop harvest statistics...The Russian Ministry reports on federal crop and livestock insurance...The Ministry also explains regulations passed in 2013 impacting the fishery sector...Uzbekistan to join the Commonwealth of Independent States Free Trade Zone...and various news items from the Russian Veterinary Service.

### **General Information:**

Welcome to the Russian Agricultural Policy and Situation Bi-Weekly Update, a summary of issues of interest to the U. S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within Russia, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included and summarized in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office. Minor grammatical changes have been made for clarification.

DISCLAIMER: Any press summary contained herein does NOT reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. government agency's point of view or official policy.

### **The Russian State Statistical Service (Rosstat) Publishes Preliminary Results of the 2013 Crop Harvest**

According to Russian State Statistical Service (Rosstat) preliminary data, in 2013 Russia harvested 91.3 million metric tons (MMT) of grains and pulses (in clean weight) from 45.8 million hectares. In 2012 Russia harvested 70.7 MMT from 44.4 million hectares. Production of all grains (except rice) increased, and the most important gains were in wheat (38 percent increase), rye (58 percent increase) and corn (30 percent increase) in production.

By crops the preliminary results of harvest are the following: wheat (winter and spring) – 52.1 MMT (37.7 MMT in 2012); barley (winter and spring) – 15.4 MMT (14.0 MMT in 2012); corn for grain – 10.7 MMT (8.2 MMT in 2012); oats – 4.9 MMT (4.0 MMT in 2012); rye (winter and spring) – 3.4 MMT (2.1 MMT in 2012); rice – 0.93 MMT (1.05 MMT in 2012); other grains – 1.83 MMT (1.83 in 2012). Production of pulses decreased slightly from 2.17 MMT in 2012 to 2.03 MMT in 2013.

Production of sunflowerseed increased from 8.0 MMT in 2012 to 10.2 MMT in 2013, production of rapeseed increased from 1.0 MMT to 1.4 MMT, however production of soybeans decreased from 1.8 MMT in 2012 to 1.5 MMT in 2013.

Sugar beet production decreased from 45.1 MMT in 2012 to 37.7 MMT in 2013.

Production of potato increased slightly from 29.5 MMT in 2012 to 30.2 MMT in 2013, and production of vegetables remained at almost the same level – 14.7 MMT in 2013 (14.6 MMT in 2012).

For more information on volumes, sown area, yields by provinces see Rosstat's web-site

[http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat\\_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/publications/catalog/doc\\_1265196018516](http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/publications/catalog/doc_1265196018516)

### **The Russian Ministry of Agriculture Reports Results of the Federal Agricultural Insurance Program in 2013**

In 2013, the crop area insured with federal support was 11.9 million hectares, including 3.7 million hectares of winter crops and 8.2 million hectares of spring crops. This insured area comprised 16 percent of Russia's total sown area. Compared to 2012, area insured with federal support actually decreased by 1 million hectares or 8.4 percent. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the decline was due higher grain prices in 2013 following the drought of 2012. The total federal budget allocations for support of agricultural insurance in 2013 were originally 6 billion rubles (\$181 million), including 5 billion rubles (\$151 million) for crops and 1 billion rubles (\$30 million) for livestock. However, in order to meet the needs in investment loan subsidies, the Ministry of Agriculture had to remove federal funds from this a

support, including reducing crop insurance by 1.3 billion rubles (\$39 million), and reducing livestock insurance by 700 million rubles (\$21 million).

The leader in the crop area insured with federal support is the Volga Valley Federal District - 4.4 million hectares or 19.2 percent of the total sown area in the Volga Valley Federal District. In the Far Eastern Federal District, which suffered seriously from floods in the fall of 2013, only 90,700 hectares, or 6.4 percent of sown area was insured.

As for insurance of livestock, only 332 agricultural producers participated in this federal insurance program in 2013, and the federal insurance covered 240.2 thousand heads of cattle, 126.4 thousand heads of goats and sheep, 891.2 thousand pigs, and 18.9 million poultry birds were insured.

<http://mcx.ru/news/news/show/19247.355.htm>

### **The Ministry of Agriculture Publishes a Report Summarizing Regulatory Work Related to the Russian Fishery Sector**

In 2013, the Federal Program "Development of the Fishery Industry until 2020" was approved. Budget funding required for its implementation is set at 88,446 million rubles. The government also worked out a set of measures of the fishing industry, as well as drafts of resolutions of the Government (№ № 1181 and 1182), providing for the extension into 2014 of subsidized loans on investment credits aimed at modernizing existing, and the construction of new, fish processing and logistics infrastructure as well as the construction and renovation of fishing vessels. Other regulatory efforts as reported by the Ministry of Agriculture included:

--A draft concept of the a Federal Target Program "Increasing efficiency and development of the resource potential of fishery industry in 2015-2020" was submitted to the government and is pending approval. The program includes the design and construction of research and rescue and patrol vessels, the construction of port and logistics infrastructure, the creation of facilities for reproduction and conservation of water and biological resources, provisions on communications and navigational safety, and other programs.

--The most important result of the legal work in 2013 was the adoption of the Federal Law "On Aquaculture." The preparation of normative legal acts necessary for its implementation includes five draft decisions of the Government and 18 orders of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry says the most important task for 2014 for the sector is the adoption of these decisions.

--A regulation, government Order issued on July 14, 2013, # 1196 – p, was approved which bans processing catch on vessels and overloading onto other vessels for costal fishing.

--Also in 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture issued orders on the distribution of total allowable catches of live aquatic resources, a limitation in some fishing areas to prevent overfishing, an order for reviewing applications for catch by indigenous people and ethnic groups, and new fishing regulations for all 8 fishery basins.

--Draft resolutions were also submitted to the Government of the Russian Federation on various issues including combating poaching, banning the disposal of living aquatic resources when implementing research and monitoring catches, simplifying rules for fishing management and restrictions and on recreational fisheries.

--In addition, a draft regulation "On recreational fisheries" was adopted by the State Duma in the first reading on December 10, 2013.

<http://mcx.ru/news/news/show/19257.355.htm>

### **Uzbekistan to Join Commonwealth of Independent States Free Trade Zone**

According to RIA Novosti, the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, has signed a law on Uzbekistan joining the Commonwealth of Independent States free trade zone. For more information, see <http://en.ria.ru/business/20131228/186017027/Uzbekistan-Joins-CIS-Free-Trade-Zone.html>.

### **On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Russian Veterinary Service Announced that it has Initiated Negotiations with the Norwegian Ambassador to Russia Leidulv Namtvedt on Fish Issues**

Previously, on January 1, 2014, Russian Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service announced that it restricted 15 salmon facilities and implemented enhanced laboratory control of the rest salmon facilities approved for export. Also the Russian authorities restricted shipments of pelagic and groundfish, including cod, saithe, herring and mackerel from more than 400 facilities. Norway is the largest supplier of fish to Russia, valued at about \$1 billion. <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8653.html>

### **Russia Opening Transit Corridor for Cattle from Kaliningrad via Lithuania**

The Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoz nadzor) reports that meetings have been held with officials from Lithuania, Poland, and Belarus about allowing for the transit of live cattle from Kaliningrad, a Russian oblast on the Baltic sea, through Lithuania beginning January 22, 2014. For additional information, see [http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=\\_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsvps.ru%2Ffsvps%2Fnews%2F8661.html](http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsvps.ru%2Ffsvps%2Fnews%2F8661.html).

### **Russia Lifts Trade Restrictions on Several Belarusian Pig Farms and Meat Processors**

Rosselkhoz nadzor announced that it will lift trade restrictions on several Belarusian pig farms and meat processing plants, after Belarus provided information on its efforts to control the spread of African Swine Fever and after inspections were conducted by the Russian veterinary service. For additional information, see [http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8583.html? language=en](http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8583.html?language=en).

### **Steering Group of OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe Meets**

According to Rosselkhoz nadzor, the steering group of the OIE regional platform on animal welfare in Europe met in late December 2013. The steering group reportedly discussed, in part, the development of a web portal for national animal welfare legislation, training on animal welfare ideologies during transport and slaughter, stray dog population control, and the global situation for highly pathogenic animal diseases. For additional information, see [http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8533.html? language=en](http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8533.html?language=en).

### **Belarus Restricts Pigs, Pork and Other Products from Lugansk Oblast, Ukraine**

According to the Belarusian Telegraph Agency, the Belarusian Ministry of Food and Agriculture has imposed restrictions on the importation of pigs, pork, and other products from Lugansk Oblast, Ukraine as a result of an outbreak of African Swine Fever in the region. For additional information, see <http://news.belta.by/en/news/econom?id=737182>.